

We claim:

1. A coated substrate comprising a strippable intermediate coating atop the substrate and a strip agent-permeable waterborne overcoat adhered to the intermediate coating, wherein the dried overcoat is less strippable and more wear-resistant than the dried intermediate coating.
2. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a floor.
3. A coated substrate according to claim 2, wherein the substrate comprises a resilient flooring material.
4. A coated substrate according to claim 3, wherein the substrate comprises a vinyl or vinyl composite tile.
5. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a wall, ceiling, label, emblem, sign or vehicle.
6. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating comprises a metal-catalyzed acrylic.
7. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating has a strippability rating of 6 or more on a 7 point scale, corresponding to at least partial strip with softened coating in all areas, using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10 minute standing time.
8. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating has a thickness of about 2.5 to about 75 micrometers.
9. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the overcoat comprises an emulsion, suspension or dispersion.
10. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the overcoat is radiation curable.

11. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the overcoat is UV-curable.
12. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the overcoat comprises an acrylate, urethane or acrylated urethane.
13. A coated substrate according to claim 12, wherein the overcoat comprises an aromatic urethane.
14. A coated substrate according to claim 12, wherein the overcoat comprises an aliphatic polyester urethane.
15. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the overcoat is not metal crosslinked.
16. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the dried overcoat has a strippability rating of 4 or less on a 7 point scale, corresponding to no more than severe chemical attack on the overcoat and the onset of stripping, using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 30 minute standing time.
17. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the dried overcoat has a thickness of about 2.5 to about 75 micrometers.
18. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the overcoat comprises two or more different layers of materials.
19. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a floor and the overcoat is UV curable.
20. A strippable laminate finish kit, comprising one or more containers of a strippable intermediate coating and a strip agent-permeable waterborne overcoat, wherein the dried overcoat adheres to the intermediate coating and is less strippable and more wear resistant than the dried intermediate coating.
21. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, further comprising a strip agent.

22. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the overcoat comprises a one-part photopolymerizable material.

23. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the overcoat comprises a UV curable material.

5 24. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the overcoat comprises an acrylate, urethane or acrylated urethane.

25. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the overcoat comprises an aromatic urethane.

10 26. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the overcoat comprises an aliphatic polyester urethane.

27. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein:

a) the intermediate coating has a strippability rating of 6 or more on a 7 point scale, corresponding to at least partial strip with softened coating in all areas, and

b) the overcoat has a strippability rating of 4 or less on a 7 point scale, corresponding to no more than severe chemical attack on the overcoat and the onset of stripping,

15 using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10 minute standing time.

20 28. A method for applying a finish to a substrate, comprising:

a) applying to the substrate a strippable intermediate coating;

b) drying the intermediate coating; and

c) applying a strip agent-permeable waterborne overcoat to the intermediate coating;

25 wherein the dried overcoat adheres to the intermediate coating and is less strippable and more wear resistant than the intermediate coating.

29. A method according to claim 28, wherein the overcoat comprises an emulsion, suspension or dispersion.

30. A method according to claim 28, wherein the overcoat comprises an acrylate, urethane or acrylated urethane.

31. A method according to claim 28, wherein the overcoat is UV curable.

32. A method according to claim 31, wherein the overcoat is applied in two or more coats each of which is UV cured before application of any further coat.

33. A method for removing a multilayer finish, comprising:

- a) applying a strip agent to a dried waterborne radiation cured overcoat adhered to a dried intermediate layer atop a substrate;
- b) allowing the strip agent to permeate through the overcoat to attack the intermediate layer; and
- c) removing the intermediate layer and overcoat without removing substantial portions of the underlying substrate.

34. A method according to claim 33, wherein permeation of the strip agent through the overcoat is enhanced by a mechanically roughening the overcoat prior to applying the strip agent.

35. A method according to claim 33, wherein removal of the intermediate layer and overcoat occurs in less than 10 minutes after application of the strip agent.